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Lexapro

GENERIC NAME(S): Escitalopram Oxalate

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Uses

Side Effects

Precautions

Interactions

Overdose

Images

Uses

Escitalopram is used to treat [depression](#) and [anxiety](#). It works by helping to restore the balance of a certain natural substance (serotonin) in the [brain](#). Escitalopram belongs to a class of drugs known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI). It may improve your energy level and feelings of well-being and decrease nervousness.

How to use Lexapro

Read the [Medication Guide](#) and, if available, the Patient Information Leaflet provided by your [pharmacist](#) before you start taking [escitalopram](#) and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Take this medication by [mouth](#) with or without food as directed by your doctor, usually once daily in the morning or evening. The dosage is based on your medical condition, response to treatment, age, and other [medications](#) you may be taking. Be sure to tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the products you use (including [prescription drugs](#), nonprescription drugs, and herbal products).

If you are using the liquid form of this medication, carefully measure the dose using a special measuring device/spoon. Do not use a household spoon because you may not get the correct dose.

To reduce your risk of side effects, your doctor may direct you to start taking this drug at a low dose and gradually increase your dose. Follow your doctor's

instructions carefully. Do not increase your dose or use this drug more often or for longer than prescribed. Your condition will not improve any faster, and your risk of side effects will increase. Take this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same time each day.

It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when this drug is suddenly stopped. Also, you may experience symptoms such as mood swings, [headache](#), tiredness, [sleep](#) changes, and brief feelings similar to electric shock. To prevent these symptoms while you are stopping treatment with this drug, your doctor may reduce your dose gradually. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details. Report any new or worsening symptoms right away.

It may take 1 to 2 weeks to feel a benefit from this drug and 4 weeks to feel the full benefit of this medication. Tell your doctor if your condition does not improve or if it worsens.

Related Links

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